





February 25, 2006 DR-1628-CA, NR-23 Contacts:

OES – Tina Walker, 916-997-8309 FEMA – News Desk, 916-853-7727 SBA – Ben Raju, 916-735-1500

## CONTRA COSTA DISASTER CENTER TO CLOSE WEDNESDAY

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – The disaster assistance center in San Pablo will be open Monday through Wednesday next week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and then will close permanently, state and federal disaster recovery officials announced today. The assistance center in Concord has closed.

The center at 14330 San Pablo Ave., staffed by federal, state and local officials and by volunteer agencies, has provided information and answered questions for more than 110 people who registered for disaster assistance for damage suffered in the December-January flooding.

Registrants can still get answers to their questions or learn about the status of their applications by calling the FEMA helpline at **1-800-621-FEMA** (3362) or (TTY) **1-800-462-7585** between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

"Help with questions on federal and state disaster assistance is just a phone call away," said Federal Coordinating Officer Tom Davies of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). "Operators at the FEMA toll-free number are ready to help with many of the questions that were brought to us at the assistance centers."

"Homeowners, renters and business owners interested in federal and state disaster assistance must register with FEMA by calling the toll-free numbers or online at www.fema.gov, even if they've already reported their losses to city or county officials," said State Coordinating Officer Henry Renteria, director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. "We want to make sure everyone registers who may be eligible for assistance." The deadline to register is April 4.

The 13 counties where federal individual assistance programs are available are Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Sacramento, Shasta, Siskiyou, Solano and Sonoma.